

# Author's Perspective

A person is said to have a **perspective** if the person has a strong feeling in favor of or against something. You might like German shepherds more than other kinds of dogs because your grandmother has a German shepherd named Doc that you love. In that case, you would have a perspective in favor of German shepherds. Another person's perspective could be against German shepherds. Maybe that person was bitten by a German shepherd or saw a German shepherd attack a smaller dog.

**Authors often have strong feelings about the subjects they write about.** If they do, they might let their opinion show, or they might try to sneak a little of their opinion by you.

Read carefully and remember that you need to be on the lookout for the author's perspective. Try thinking about these things as you read:

**The writer** -Find out what you can about the writer. Is there information that hints that the writer might have a certain perspective? For example, maybe the writer of an article criticizing the governor is planning to run against the governor in the next election.

**The reason** -Ask yourself the reason the piece was written. Is someone trying to influence you to buy a product? To change your mind about something? To support a cause?

**The rest of the story** -Before you make up your mind on any issue, make sure you've gathered all the important information. Even if you disagree with someone, knowing the reasons for his or her position cannot hurt.

## Example:

Dear Mayor Owen,

Last year our neighborhood was hit over and over again by robbers. Our neighbors' homes were broken into, and our own car was stolen! Police Chief Nee came herself to our neighborhood to reassure us that the Police Department was going to help us. Soon we had several police cars patrolling our neighborhood 24 hours a day. I would like to suggest that you issue a special recognition to our Police Department and Chief Nee.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rex Harrison

Why has Mr. Harrison developed such a positive opinion of the Police Department?

You should realize that Mr. Harrison has become a fan of the Police Department because it helped him and his neighbors when they were having a terrible problem with robberies in their neighborhood.